



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)
Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

2013 MAC Plan



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I. Introduction

The Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center serves 10 dispatch centers in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. On an ongoing basis, this Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) and RMACG Duty Officer coordinates the priority setting and allocation of resources for fire management within the Rocky Mountain Area in the most cost effective and efficient manner. When the number or complexity of fire management activities and competition for resources increases significantly within the Area and/or on a national scale, the Rocky Mountain Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group may be activated.

A. Mission Statement

The Rocky Mountain MAC Group is formed in order to set priorities for incidents and / or Area Commands, and to direct, control, allocate and reallocate resources among or between Area Commands and Incident Management Teams when the character and intensity of the fire management situation significantly impacts the geographic area.

B. MAC Membership

The MAC Group is comprised of managers representing the various agencies within the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area. Typically, this would include representation at the Regional Director/Fire Director level for the U.S. Forest Service, Fire Management Officer level for State agencies, State Fire Management Officer level for the Bureau of Land Management, and Regional Fire Management Officer level for the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Members must be delegated in writing the authority to represent and make commitments on behalf of their agency. A list of current members and advisors is included in Appendix A of this plan.

Other organizations may be invited to participate if the MAC Group agencies feel that their participation would improve the incident prioritization and resource allocation process.

If there is disagreement on attendance of a particular organization, the MAC Group will go into an executive session prior to the MAC meeting to resolve.

Local MAC Membership

Local MAC (LMAC) is composed of local Agency Administrators, Fire Management Officers, Dispatch Center Managers (and others as defined in the zone's operating guides) and a RMCG liaison within the zone.

II. Operating Procedures

A. MAC Group Activation

At Preparedness Levels below III, the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group has a rotating Duty Officer that serves to assist the RMACG Center Manager to prioritize incidents and facilitate Inter-Agency business on an as needed basis.

At Preparedness Level III, the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group Duty Officer and Geographic Area Coordination Center Manager will discuss and consider the need to activate the MAC Group. The decision to activate the MAC Group will be based on the number of large/complex/IMT incidents, fires managed for resource benefit, prescribed burns scheduled, predicted weather, percentage of area crews and initial attack resources committed, and the level of competition for resources between units and/or Geographic Areas.

The Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group and the Geographic Area Coordination Center Manager will also decide where the MAC Group should be physically located. The MAC Group will usually be located in the Coordination Center but can be located where fire activity is the most severe. MAC Group business may also be addressed via conference calls. Once activated, the MAC Group may determine to reposition itself.

LMAC Group Activation

LMAC for the 10 interagency dispatch centers will convene when duty officer and center manager determine the need to activate agency LMAC members based on activity, and as defined in the zone's operating guides.

B. Roles and Responsibilities

The MAC Group does not direct the Incident or Area Command(s), who retain the authority and responsibility for on-the-ground management of the incident organization.

The roles and responsibilities of these Rocky Mountain agency MAC representatives are as follows:

1. Prioritize fire management incidents.
2. Provide guidance on the allocation or re-allocation of scarce/limited resources among incidents to assure safe, productive, wildland fire management activities commensurate with the priorities identified. The MAC group at times may directly re-allocate scarce/limited resources
3. Interact with LMAC Groups to assess priorities for resource allocation, and with the national level MAC Group to support the Area's resource needs through RMACC or the MAC Coordinator. (Appendix F)

The following are other items that may be appropriate to address within the framework of the MAC group. These issues include but are not limited to:

1. Anticipate future resource needs.
2. Review policies/agreements for resource allocation.
3. Recommend staffing extension guidelines for available resources.
4. Review the need for involvement by other agencies.
5. Determine the need for activation of national military resources.
6. Determine the need for and designate location(s) of mobilization and demobilization centers.
7. Provide information and perspective to agencies wishing to manage an incident for multiple benefits as indicated on the go/no-go checklist.
8. Provide disaster coordination at the State and Federal levels.
9. Improve political interfaces.

C. Support Organization

1. MAC Group Coordinator

Initially, the duties of the MAC Coordinator are carried out by the Rocky Mountain Center Manager and/or the Duty Officer. If desired, a qualified MAC Coordinator may be brought in to relieve this workload. The MAC Coordinator's roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Coordinates with the Rocky Mountain Center Manager to assure that required information is being provided to the MAC Group within the time frames specified.
- b. Arrange for and manage the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the MAC Group functions.
- c. Assists the MAC Group decision process by facilitating the group's conference calls and/or meetings. MAC Group Coordinator may also be asked to facilitate RMCG issue discussions following completion of prioritization and allocation.
- d. Documents the MAC Group's decisions and coordinates with the Rocky Mountain Center Manager to assure their prompt implementation.

Once MAC is activated the MAC Coordinator will contact the Rocky Mountain Center Manager to arrange the initial staffing to support the MAC Function. These resources will be tracked on a RMA MAC support order.

The MAC Coordinator will also reserve a meeting room for daily meetings and operational briefings.

The MAC Coordinator will receive a delegation of authority from the chair of the RMCG.

2. GACC Intelligence Coordinators

In order to support the MAC Group's requirements that situation, resource status, and fire behavior information is accurate and current, the GACC Predictive Services Sections will expand as needed. This may involve splitting the function

into separate Situation, Resource and Fire Behavior Units under the Center Managers direction, or bringing in additional personnel within the existing organization.

All information will be collected via existing dispatch/coordination channels by the GACC Predictive Services Sections, and given to the MAC Coordinator for consolidation and presentation to the MAC Group. Unless constrained by extremely tight time frames, any requests for information in addition to the required products listed below will flow back down through the MAC Coordinator to the Center Manager for collection. Conversely, the MAC Group will keep the Center Manager informed of any individually collected information.

The RMCG may task the MAC Coordinator with other responsibilities. This could include the supervision of the Information function, public information and education, coordination with FAST teams, etc. Any further responsibilities will be added to the MAC Coordinators delegation of authority.

3. MAC Support Organization

The complexity of the total fire situation will guide the staffing utilized and supervised by the MAC Coordinator. At a minimum the MAC Coordinator should ensure there is adequate staffing to maintain the status summary for MAC meetings, capture MAC decisions and prepare the documentation package for the MAC. Several positions utilized in the past include MAC Plans, MAC documentation, MAC Operations, MAC Aviation, Information/External Affairs, Safety Coordinator, and Situation/GIS support. Job aids have been developed and are included at the end of the MAC Master Guidance document that provide information on the mission of each function, how to ramp up to meet the needs of the MAC, daily operations schedules, descriptions of special activities that have occurred in the past, and guidance on when and how to scale down the function. A brief description of responsibilities follows:

a. MAC Plans – The primary functions of MAC plans include maintaining the status summary for current project fires requiring prioritization, provide administrative support to the MAC coordinator and group, provide maps of incidents for MAC support, and to maintain the MAC group documentation package. As conditions warrant additional personnel can be supervised by MAC Plans which could include a documentation unit leader, a situation unit leader and Decision Support Group (DSG).

b. MAC Operations – The primary function of MAC operations is to work with MAC Plans and the RMCC Center Manager to obtain the most current information on resource commitments, needs and availability and to then make recommendations to the MAC Group on how to allocate or re-allocate critical resources. The MAC Operations position is separate from the RMCG Operations Committee and the RMA Operations Tactical Group.

c. MAC Aviation - Coordinates with the RMCC Manager and MAC

Operations to evaluate intelligence information and make recommendations to the MAC group on the placement and allocation of resources. Works with all agencies to implement MAC decisions. Works with MAC Safety and IMT aviation to provide aviation safety teams where needed.

d. MAC Safety – The primary function of the MAC Safety position is to monitor the overall safety situation for the geographic area. MAC Safety also makes recommendations to the MAC Coordinator or the RMCG Chair on the activation of FAST, Aviation Safety Teams, etc. MAC Safety will serve as the point of contact for any teams activated and the MAC Coordinator or RMCG Chair.

D. Intelligence Requirements

1. Resource status (available and committed) by agency (source - SIT Report/other data bases).
2. Summary of outstanding resource requests and critical resource needs (source - Incident Intelligence Summary and resource orders).
3. Resources coming available for reassignment from incidents approaching containment (source - Demob Plans/Resource Availability Lists).
4. Incident status information:
 - a. Incident Intelligence Summary (ICS-209) for each incident.
 - b. Incident Information report for Geographic Area (source - SIT Report).
 - c. Incident Action Plans and maps (if available).
 - e. Summary of updated information (by incident) collected from calls to Incident Management Teams, Fire Management Officers, Information Officers, etc.
 - f. GACC list of priorities.
5. Specialists may use any of the following when appropriate to determine an assessment of current/potential fuel situation and fire behavior predictions: (source - RERAP, FARSITE, BEHAVE, NDVI Maps, NFDRS, Firefamily+ programs, etc.). The Decision Support Group (DSG) may be utilized to assist with the decision support technologies used to perform the analysis and development of a Decision Analysis Report (DAR).
6. Short and long-range weather forecasts (source - National Weather Service).

E. Meeting/Conference Call Protocol

A general briefing prior to the MAC Meeting will address the Rocky Mountain Area Situation Report, Fuels/Fire Behavior Assessment, and a weather briefing.

A checklist format to be used in taking roll for each call is included in Appendix B of this plan.

The agenda for MAC Group meetings/conference calls will be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Incident Prioritization & Discussion
3. Allocate Resources
4. Document Decisions
5. Transmit Decisions to the Field
6. Evaluate the need to continue MAC

F. Incident Prioritization

The first meeting of the MAC group will include development of the prioritization criteria by which incidents will be prioritized and scarce resources allocated for the duration of the MAC Function. Examples of criteria developed by past MAC Groups are listed in Appendix C. These examples are available to give the MAC Coordinator and the MAC Group members a starting point from which to negotiate prioritization criteria acceptable to all members of the group. Also included in Appendix C is the Priority Decision Matrix.

G. MAC Group Products

The flow of information regarding MAC Group decisions is from the MAC Coordinator through the dispatch/coordination system or through individual members to their agencies for implementation by the Center Manager.

On a daily basis, the MAC Group can be expected to issue an Incident Situation Summary that will provide a short overview of the situation within the Rocky Mountain. When the GACC is experiencing numerous complex fires the Decision Plus Criteria Matrix may be used to document the priorities of the fires.

1. Prioritized list of fires and additional resources to be assigned (as they become available). A blank form is included in this plan as Appendix D.
2. Any other work products produced will be those specifically assigned to the MAC Coordinator by the RMCG. These could include:
 - a. Double-crew helicopters, engines, and/or water tenders.
 - b. Solicit list of available contract resources.
 - c. Activate Aviation Safety Teams.
 - d. Activate portable FAA Tower operations.
 - f. Change pilot duty limitations.
 - g. Require adequate notice before release/reassignment of resources (minimum of 48 hours).
 - h. Train local workforce and/or hire more AD fire crews.
 - i. Bring in ADO payment teams.
 - j. Maintain supporting documentation.

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APPENDIX A
ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA MAC

MAC Group and Advisor Directory

	NAME	Agency/Region	Phone	Fax	E-MAIL
1	David Carter	FWS – Region 6	303-236-8110	303-236-4792	david_carter@fws.gov
2	Michael Davin	NPS - Intermountain Region	303-969-2951	303-969-2037	michael_davin@nps.gov
3	Kyle Cowan	BLM - Wyoming	307-775-6100	307-775-6098	kcowan@blm.gov
4	Jim Fletcher	RMACC	303-445-4302	303-445-4321	jafletcher@fs.fed.us
5	Dave Hall	BIA – Great Plains Region	605-226-7621	605-226-7358	david.hall@bia.gov
6	Ross Hauck	KS Forest Service	785-532-3314	785-532-3305	rhauck@oznet.ksu.edu
7	Rocco Snart	CO Div. of Fire Prevention & Control	720-347-7234		rocco.snart@state.co.us
8	Bob Jones	BIA- Wind River Agency	307-332-4408	307-332-5017	robert.jones@bia.gov
9	Ken Kerr	BLM-Colorado	303-239-3693	303-239-3811	krkerr@blm.gov
10	Jay Esperance	South Dakota Wildland Fire Division	605-393-8011	605-393-8044	jay.esperance@state.sd.us
11	Bill Ott	USFS – Rocky Mountain Region	303-275-5749	303-275-5754	wott@fs.fed.us
12	Willie Thompson	USFS – Rocky Mountain Region	303-275-5736	303-275-5754	wrthompson@fs.fed.us
13	Cal Pino	BIA-Southwest Region	505-563-3385	505-563-3052	cal.pino@bia.gov
14	Ron Graham	WY State Forestry Division	307-777-3368	307-777-5986	ron.graham@wyo.gov
15	Earl Imler	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	402-471-7181		earl.imler@nebraska.gov
16	Brooke Malcolm	FWS – Region 6	303-445-4306	303-445-4321	brooke_malcolm@fws.gov

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

National and RMA MAC Priorities

When competition for wildland fire resources occurs among Geographic Areas, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) at NIFC will establish national priorities and confirm drawdown levels.

When requested, Geographic Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and wildland fires and report them to NICC.

The single overriding suppression priority is the protection of human life – both, that of our firefighters and of the public.

In setting national priorities and drawdown levels, the following criteria will be considered:

- II. Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
- III. Maintaining initial action capability.
- IV. Limiting costs without compromising safety.
- V. Meeting agency suppression objectives.
- VI. Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

Refer to RMA Mob Guide Chapter 30 for additional considerations for incident prioritization.

Priority Decision Matrix (6/2011)

Incident Name					Unit		
Date		Time			Prescribed Burn		Wildland Fire
Active Suppression	Selective Holding		Monitoring		VAXWF=TP		
Ranking Element	Value of 1	Value of 3	Value of 5	Value Assigned	Weight Factor	Total Points	
Firefighter Safety	Low exposure with simple hazards easily migrated. One or no aircraft assigned.	Moderate exposure with several hazardous conditions mitigated through the LCES worksheet.	High exposure which requires multiple strategies to mitigate hazards. Multiple aircraft types assigned.		5		
Public Safety	Exposure to hazard can be mitigated through public contact. No known air quality violations at sensitive receptors.	Public must be managed to limit hazard exposure. Air quality is degraded and approaches NAAQ violation thresholds.	Closures of highways and evacuations likely. Air quality at sensitive receptors violates NAAQs. Public exposure to hazard is imminent.		5		
Objectives	Objectives are difficult to achieve. Several conflicts between objectives and constraints exist.	Objectives are moderately difficult to achieve.	Objectives are easily achieved.		4		
Duration of Resource Commitment	Eight Days	Four to Seven Days	One to Three Days		4		
Improvements to be Protected	No improvements within or adjacent to the fire.	Several improvements to be protected are within or adjacent to the fire. Mitigation through planning and/or preparation is adequate. May require some commitment of specialized resources.	Numerous improvements within or adjacent to the fire. Severe damage is likely without commitment of significant specialized resources with appropriate skill level.		3		
Cultural and Natural Resource Values	Impacts to resources are acceptable.	Several resource values will be impacted or enhanced.	Resource benefits are significant or the likelihood of negative impacts is great.		4		
Social, Economic, and Political Impacts/ concerns	No controversy or media interest. No impacts to neighbors or visitors.	Some impact to neighbors or visitors generating some controversy. Press releases are issued, but no media presence on fires.	High impacts to neighbors results in media presence during fire operations. High internal and external interests and concerns exist.		3		
Economic Considerations	Values to be protected or treated are less than costs of management action.	Values to be protected or treated are equal to costs of management action.	Values to be protected or treated exceed costs of management action.		2		
Threats to Boundaries	Low risk of fire escaping established perimeter and active suppression or holding is required.	Moderate risk of fire escaping established perimeter and active suppression or holding is required.	Fire is certain to exceed established perimeter without aggressive suppression or holding actions and will result in a much more complex situation.		3		
WFDSS				Yes		No	
Critical Resources on Incident				Yes		No	
TOTAL PRIORITY POINTS							
MAC Group Priority Ranking							

APPENDIX D

Rocky Mountain MAC Incident Priority List

Initial	Update	Date:
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# = No 209 Received					
<i>Fire Name</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Coordination</i>	<i>Agency(s)</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Estimated Containment</i>
	1				
	2				
<i>Pending</i>					
<i>Monitor</i>					

NameFire/UnitNotes

APPENDIX E

Conference Call – Rocky Mountain Area MAC Group

Prioritize/re-prioritize incidents

Determine allocations

Document and Distribute Decisions

Re-evaluate the need to continue MAC

*** RMCG Issues – At the end of MAC, RMCG may convene if necessary.**

DATE/TIME OF NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

APPENDIX E

RMCG Liaison Dispatch Center Conference Call – LMAC Dispatch Center Call

LMAC Fire and resource prioritization –

Resource needs-

Weather and Fire behavior –

Safety concerns or issues-

Any other significant update or concern –

MAC update on fire and resource prioritization-

RMCG Issues-

DATE/TIME OF NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

APPENDIX E
DAILY CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE
(MOUNTAIN TIME)

0730	SAFETY OFFICERS
0830	INCIDENT COMMANDERS
0930	NATIONAL CENTER MANAGERS
1000	RMA CENTER MANAGERS
1030	INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING
1100	RMA MAC GROUP
1800	RMA MAC GROUP

_____	CPC
_____	CDC
_____	RWC
_____	FTC
_____	CRC
_____	PBC
_____	GJC
_____	MTC
_____	DRC
_____	GPC

APPENDIX F

Sample Delegation of Authority

Delegation of Authority

Chair, Rocky Mountain Coordination Group

As of 1800 hours, June 4, 2003, I have delegated the following authorities to _____, who is assigned as Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area.

1. Sign MAC decision documents that have been developed by the MAC Group.
2. Re-prioritize or re-allocate resources as necessary between scheduled MAC meetings. Any re-prioritization or re-allocation will be presented to the MAC Group at the next scheduled meeting.
3. Provide guidance to Public Information, Plans, Operations, Aviation, Prevention/Education Team and other MAC support functions as needed.
4. Assume responsibilities of RMCG Duty Officer as defined in Rocky Mountain Area Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.
5. Facilitate MAC Group meetings and conference calls.
6. Coordinate with Local MAC Groups, including participation on conference calls whenever possible.

Chair, RMCG

Amendment to Delegation of Authority

7. Serve as the point of contact for the FAST Team lead by _____ representing the RMCG.

Chair, RMCG